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THE ROUND TABLE

ROOM 204
8 WELLINGTON ST. EAST

TORONTO, September 19th, 1916.

Dear Sir:-

In the absence of Major Massey, who is Secretary of your committee, and at the suggestion of the Chairman, I am venturing to put before you one or two aspects of the work immediately ahead of us. Before doing so there is one point that I should like to emphasize and that is, that as there will be a great deal to be done this autumn and winter it will be necessary to somewhat increase our organization, and, therefore, our expenses, and I suggest that it would be a wise plan to form a financial committee who would arrange for the money side of affairs.

The visit of Mr. Curtis and the publication of his book, together with the facts that we are probably in sight of the end of the war and, therefore, of the period when some practical steps towards Imperial organization will become possible, make it necessary I think to consider just what is best for us to do. Various plans have been suggested for our organization, one of them being that Mr. Warburton might be persuaded on his return from England in the autumn to devote a great deal or perhaps all of his time to the Round Table. This brings us immediately to the point of precisely what the Round Table is to try to effect. Up to the present the Round Table Societies have been, equally with the Round Table Quarterly, not only strictly non-partisan but also quite apart from the propaganda of any detailed plan of Imperial organization. All the old groups, and of them several are active, were formed on the express understanding that nothing was to be expected of them but, firstly, a more or less systematic study of the problem involved, and, secondly, an implicit understanding that they would, in reference to their own particular circle of acquaintances, do what they could to bring home to other people the importance of a careful consideration of the Imperial problem. The Round Table organization in London have always avoided and are still avoiding anything like propaganda of a specific plan, their whole energies being devoted to bringing before people the importance and the incidence of the problem to be solved. Now this position is somewhat traversed by the nature of Mr. Curtis's book, which is undoubtedly regarded by a great many people as a Round Table publication. The first part of "The Problem of the Commonwealth",- probably two-thirds of the book, - is devoted to the strictly Round Table method of careful statement of what the problem involves, with the necessary

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implications and the direction towards which our efforts should be directed. But the latter part of the book lays down in detail what he considers necessary to carry out Imperial Union, and it is necessary to consider very carefully your committee's relation, and the relation of the groups in general, to this part of the book. If your committee decides that it is wise to engage in definite propaganda, then it seems to me clear that this propaganda must be carefully separated from the Round Table, that is if the propaganda is to come anywhere near the point of trying to propagate a definite, comprehensive scheme. I think the memorandum that we are all signing does stop short of that, and I think that it does another very important thing, namely, makes it quite clear that the Round Table is not responsible for the solutions suggested in Mr. Curtis's book, and I do not see really any reason why the Round Table Society as such should not be active in obtaining signatures to the memorandum. As we are nearing the autumn, when people can once more be approached on these subjects and systematic work can be continued, it appears to be very important that when the committee meets it should be prepared to definitely decide its exact position in regard to these two sides of work. Possibly one could prepare a circular to the groups making it quite clear where they stand and what they are expected to do, and how far they are expected to go. In other words I suggest that there must be a pretty definite delimitation of our activities.

Yours truly,

A. J. Glazebrook

AJG/E.

R. A. Falconer, Esq.
University of Toronto.

September 20th, 1916

A. J. Glazebrook, Esq.,
"Round Table",
Room 204, 8 Wellington Street East, Toronto.

Dear Mr. Glazebrook:

I agree with you that it probably necessary to increase the size of the Committee that has charge of Round Table affairs in Toronto.

I think also that the memorandum that has been prepared should be signed by as many as possible.

I agree entirely that we cannot make the Round Table responsible for Mr. Curtis' views as to the solution of the problem. The more I think of the problem the more I am convinced that Curtis' solution overlooks certain very serious effects that are most obvious to those who have had time to feel the pulse of the country as a whole; but that memorandum does not commit us to any one solution and we must emphasise the necessity of having the statesmen of the Empire come together to decide from their practical experience how far it is possible to go at once in beginning to realise the aim of the Round Table. I assume that all are agreed upon the aim that we must draw the Empire more closely together and that this can only be done by something new in the way of organisation.

The autumn is a very busy time for me, but I will certainly try to be present at any meeting of the Committee that you may call. With kind regards, I am, Yours sincerely,

MINUTES of a Meeting of THE ROUND TABLE COMMITTEE
held on Thursday, November 23, 1916,
at 71 Queen's Park.

PRESENT:

Sir Edmund Walker, in the chair,
Lieut.-Col. Leonard,
Sir John Willison,
Dr. R. A. Falconer,
Mr. H. V. F. Jones,
Mr. C. F. Beer,
Mr. H. D. Scully,
Lieut-Col. Massey.

The following members sent word that they were unable to be present: Mr. C. A. Harburton, Lieut.-Col. H. C. Osborne, Prof. C. M. Wrong, Mr. A. J. Glassebrook and Mr. J. F. MacKay.

1. The Committee first gave attention to criticisms of the Memorandum received from certain Groups. It was immediately agreed that no further change should be made in the wording of the Memorandum.

2. The Meeting then discussed the matter of ultimately bringing the Memorandum with its signatures before the public. The Committee agreed that the Memorandum was in the nature not of a petition but of a manifesto for the influencing of public opinion; that the signatures obtained should, within reasonable limits as to number, be published in full; that the completed document be handed to the Associated Press in order that all journals might have an equal opportunity of publishing it; and that in all prior communications of a private nature from members of the Committee a paragraph be included advising against the premature publication of the Memorandum.

3. The Chairman then brought in the question of the method to be adopted in securing signatures. After an exhaustive discussion it was agreed that leading men in certain centres should be asked to be responsible for other names in their respective districts, the aim being approximately 10 or 12 names for each of the Eastern Provinces, 25 names for Ontario, and 25 names for the Western Provinces as a whole.

The following plan was approved:

P.E.I.	Mr. Beer to communicate with	Mr. A. B. Warburton,
N.S.	Pres. Falconer	"	" Mr. G. S. Campbell,
N.B.	Mr. Beer	"	" Mr. T. H. Waterbrook,
Que.	Mr. Glazebrook	"	" Mr. Batley regarding Montreal,
	Mr. Jones	"	" a correspondent " Sherbrooke,
	Sir Edmund Walker	"	" Sir Geo. Garneau regarding Quebec French signatures,
	Lieut.-Col. Leonard	"	" Sir Wm. Price regarding Quebec English signatures,
Ont.	A committee consisting of Sir Edmund Walker, Mr. Beer and Mr. Massey to organize the canvass of the Province,		
Man.	Pres. Falconer to communicate with	Sir Andrew MacMillan,	
Sask.	" " "	"	" Pres. Murray,
Alta.	" " "	"	" Pres. Tory,
	Mr. Glazebrook	"	" Mr. O. M. Biggar, K. C.
B.C.	Sir John Willison	"	" Sir C. H. Tupper.

The meeting then adjourned.

Secretary.

Chairman.

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January 2nd, 1917

A. J. Glazebrook, Esq.,

6 Wellington Street East,

Toronto.

Dear Mr. Glazebrook:

I am sending you a cheque from Dr. Duncan Graham for the Edward Kylie Memorial.

Wishing you a happy New Year,

I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

January 6th, 1917

W. F. Bowles, Esq.,

Secretary, Round Table,

84 St. Mary Street,

Toronto.

Dear Mr. Bowles:

I am returning to you two copies of the memorandum, one signed by myself and the other signed by the Halifax group. When I get them from Winnipeg and the West I will forward them to you.

This morning I received the minutes.

Yours sincerely,

President.

January 8th, 1917

Mr. W. F. Bowles,

Secretary, Round Table,

84 St. Mary Street, Toronto.

Dear Mr. Bowles:

I am sending the memorandum from Winnipeg with seven excellent signatures on it.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

January 26th, 1917

Mr. W. F. Bowles,

Secretary, Round Table Club,

84 St. Mary Street,

Toronto.

Dear Mr. Bowles:

I am sending you a letter which I have received this morning together with the memorandum signed by ex-Lieutenant-Governor Brown, Judge Lamont and Mr. Norman Mackenzie. These will be three very valuable signatures from Saskatchewan.

Yours sincerely,

President.